

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated October 5, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-4 are withdrawn in this application. Claims 5-14 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1-14 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 5-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,368,945 to Im (hereinafter "Im").

The rejection of claims 5-14 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 5-14 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "stepping the X-Y stage in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction after completing the crystallization of all blocks disposed long the first direction and then stepping the X-Y stage in the first direction to further crystallize additional blocks along the first direction." Im does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

As stated by the Examiner in the May 23, 2005 Office action, the proposed addition at the end of claims 5 and 11 had potential for differentiating Im, but additional processing or crystallization was necessary after the proposed step. (See May 23, 2005 Office Action, page 2.) The newly added feature of "stepping the X-Y stage in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction after completing the crystallization of all blocks disposed long the first direction and then stepping the X-Y stage in the first direction to further crystallize additional blocks along the first direction" contemplates additional crystallization. While Im uses a continuous motion in the Y direction and a discreet step in the X direction to crystallize a silicon film, the present invention uses discreet steps in both perpendicular directions to crystallize a silicon film. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-14 are allowable over the cited references.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 4, 2006

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